

EPISODE #105
February 10, 1994

The Valley 66 COMIC

N • E • W • S



ENTERTAINMENT LISTINGS!!

STORIES:

BEYOND POLITIX
GRAND OLD PARTY ANIMALS
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CAPITOL HILL STREET BLUES
WHITEWATER RAFTING
WEATHER OR NOT

INSIDE

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DOONESBURY,
CALVIN & HOBBES,
VIEWS OF THE WORLD,
JOE BOB BRIGGS, LEOLD,
THIS MODERN WORLD,
TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT,
L.A. CUCARACHA,
MIKE CHRISMAN,
LOCAL HEROES,
EARTHWEEK

FREE. FREE.
FREE. FREE.

PAGE THREE

by Mike Chrisman

(This column was written before somebody named Perry got the Secretary of Defense job.)

So Bobby Ray (They're Out To Get Me, And I Love It) Inman has given two thumbs down to the Secretary of Defense job. I can understand that. Who wants to be the commandant at Fort Apache when the Indians have all gone home? I mean, there's *nothing to defend against*. The Evil Empire's gone, and there's not even a *Cold War* any more.

Plus, for some forty years, the job's had that sissy title. It used to be called Secretary of War. Now, that's a *man's job*. But Secretary of Defense? Why not completely give in to the PC police, and call it Secretary of the *Militarily-Challenged*?

The way things are in the world today, I can't imagine hardly *anybody* wanting that job. Except for maybe one person — one extraordinary, media-friendly example of public service the way it *used to be*.

That's right: me. I'll do it. I'll hate it, but that's the kind of self-sacrificing guy I am, unlike Bobby Ray (Safire made me do it) Inman.

Heck, I'll even campaign for the job. None of this "Golly, Mr. President, you want funky ole *me*?" And here's my first campaign promise: Right off, I'll change the title. It oughta be called Secretary of Limited Intervention. That way I won't have to tie myself in knots explaining why sending troops to Burkina Faso is essential to America's *defense*.

In fact — get this — I won't even send troops at all. Too much danger of somebody getting hurt. We're not paying front-line soldiers *nearly* enough to get shot at with live ammunition. Instead, I'll send some people who *are* getting paid enough: professional athletes, preferably football and basketball players. All these guys would have to do is show up in the war-torn city *du jour*, and wait for the guerrillas, counter-revolutionaries, and ethnic conflictors to tumble all over each other trying to get a piece of a product-endorsement commercial: "Faisal, I bet you can't eat just one...."

And if that's not enough, I'll send movie stars: Schwargenegger, Stallone, Shirley McLaine. What leader of a warring clan wouldn't suck up to those two he-men, with an eye on a speaking part in their next action flick? And Shirley McLaine? Imagine the impact of this gambit: "But Dmitri, you were so *gentle* when we shared that yurt in 1206."

Now, I know some of you are going, "Mike, this sounds fine, but what about all the military personnel we've got now? What are *they* gonna do?" That's an excellent question, and qualifies you to be my Deputy Secretary for Confusing Job Changes.

Most of these personnel will be put to work rebuilding the war-torn nations whose formerly-feuding leaders have abandoned them and moved to America. Then they'll stay in those other countries so long that their children will marry locals and convert to religions their grandparents think are inspired by Satan. The remaining military personnel will, ironically, end up working with terrorists-turned-matinee-idol in America's TV and film industry, where they'll be grips, gaffers, best boys...that sort of thing.

This plan is just the tip of the iceberg, of course. Lots more would come out in testimony before Congress. I'm looking forward to that; for two years now I've wanted to say, "Yes, Senator, I inhaled. But unlike our President, I also exhaled. Ha ha."

So I think it'll all go smoothly. Our military personnel abroad will probably numerically replace the foreign gunslingers and bad guys who come here; this means no net immigration. And all those new faces in Hollywood and New York will mean there's no danger of America losing its dominance in the all-important Image War. In the end it's definitely for the best that Bobby Ray (Conspiracies R Us) Inman just didn't have the vision to be Secretary of Limited Intervention. Fortunately — as MTV is my witness — *I do*.

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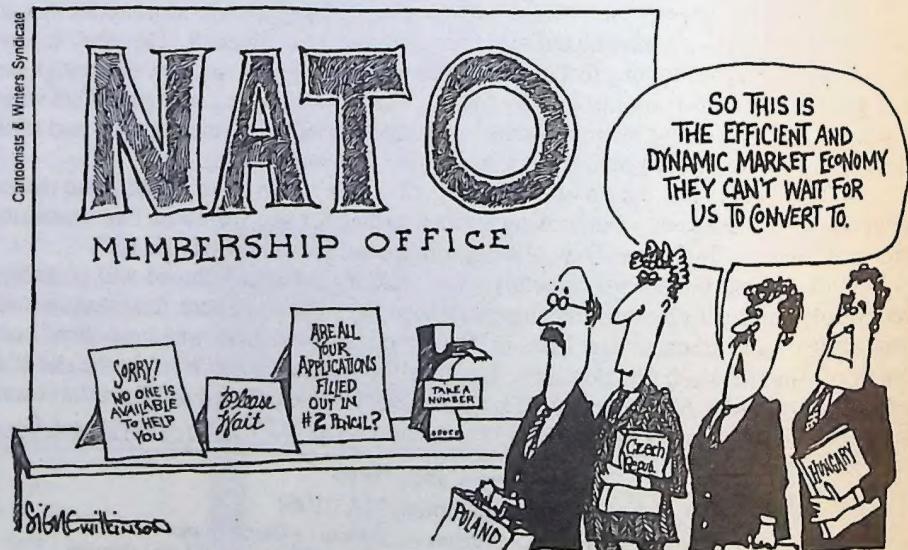
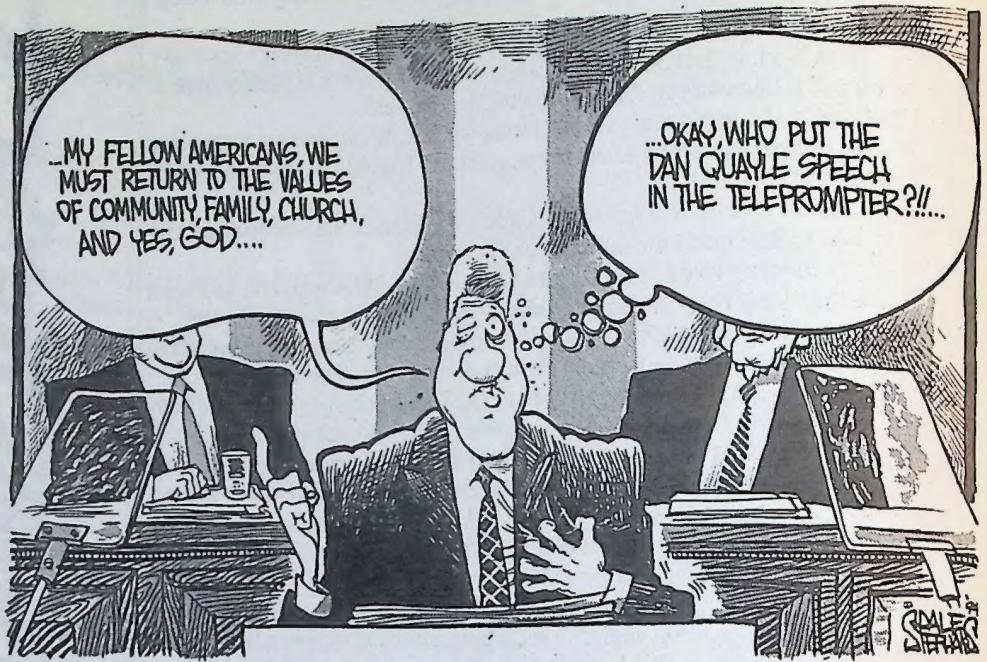
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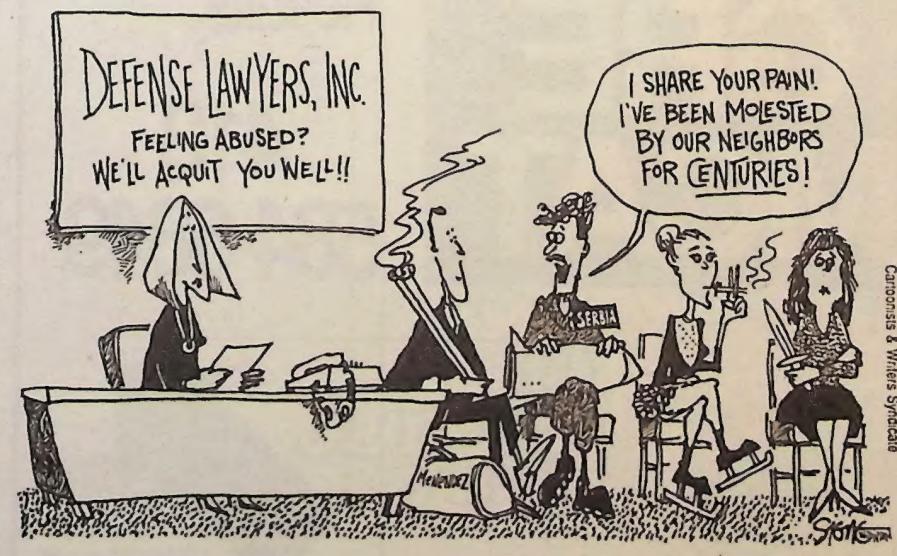
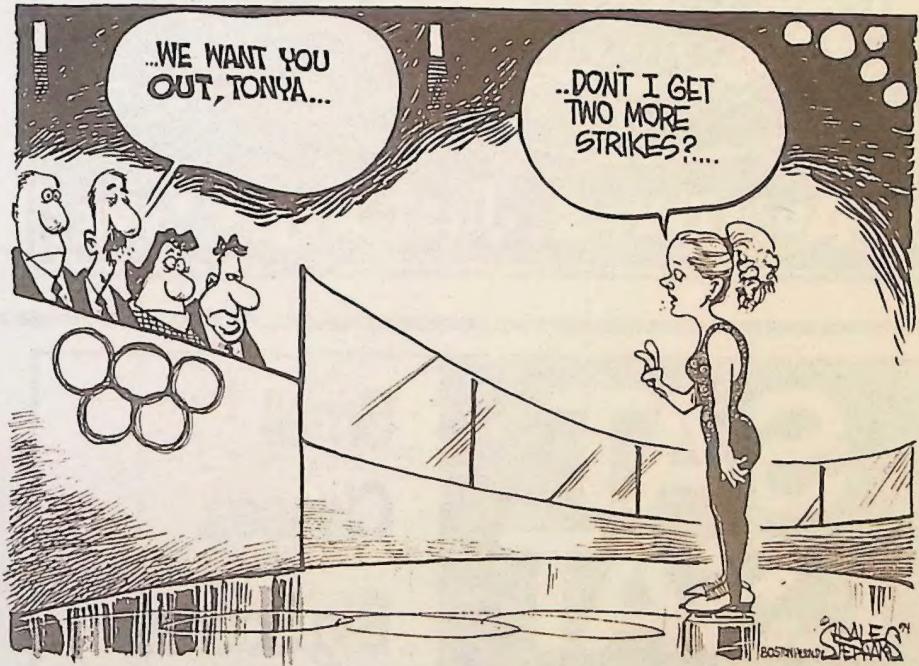
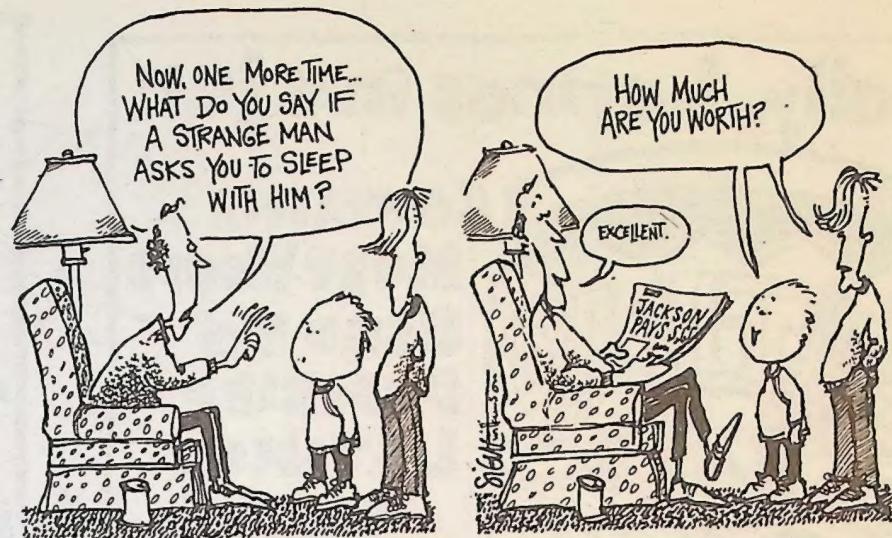
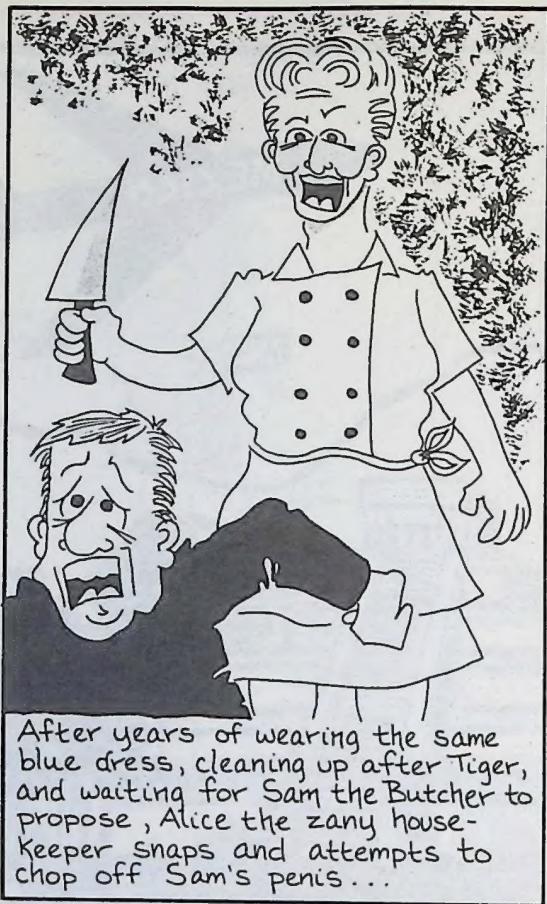


CAPITOL HILL STREET BLUES

BERMAN by Jennifer Berman



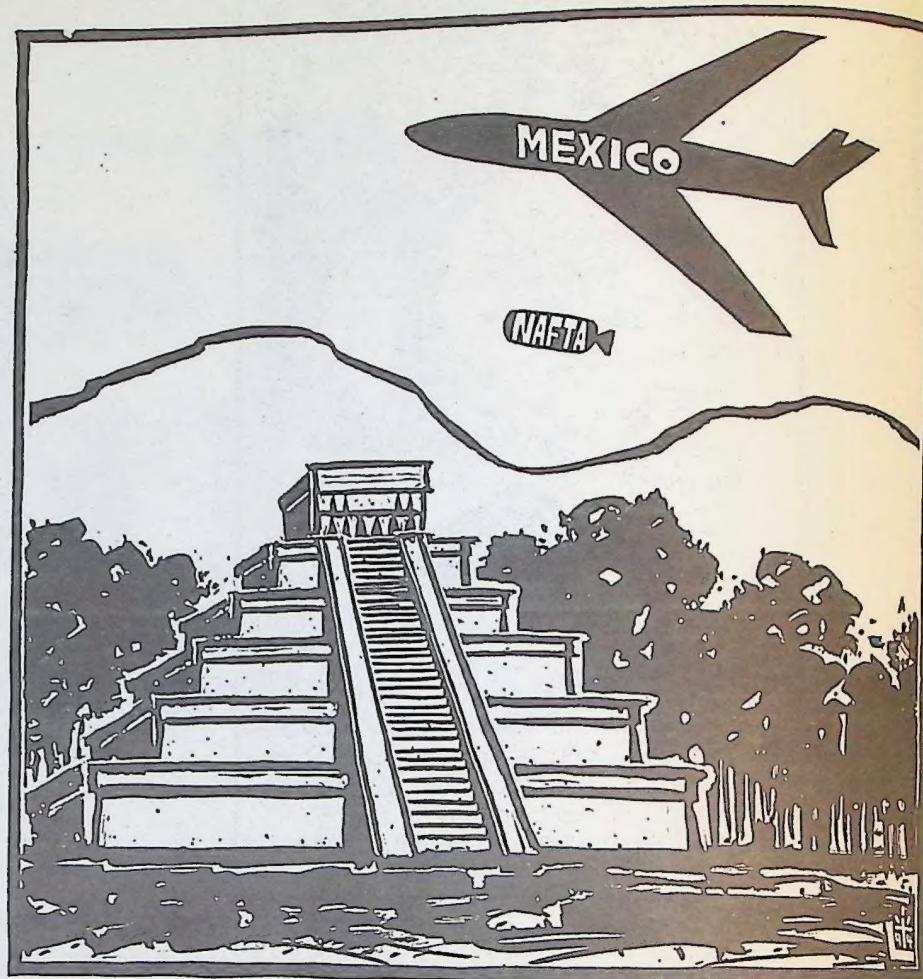
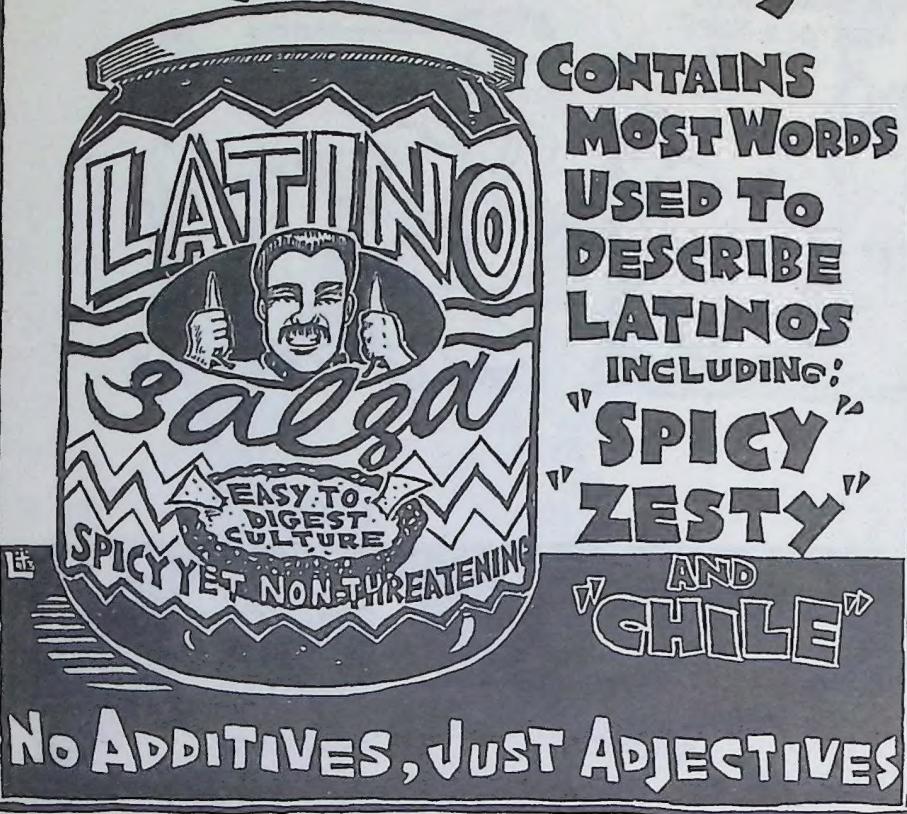
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WINGS OF DESIRE
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THE FRENCH LIZ'S WOMAN
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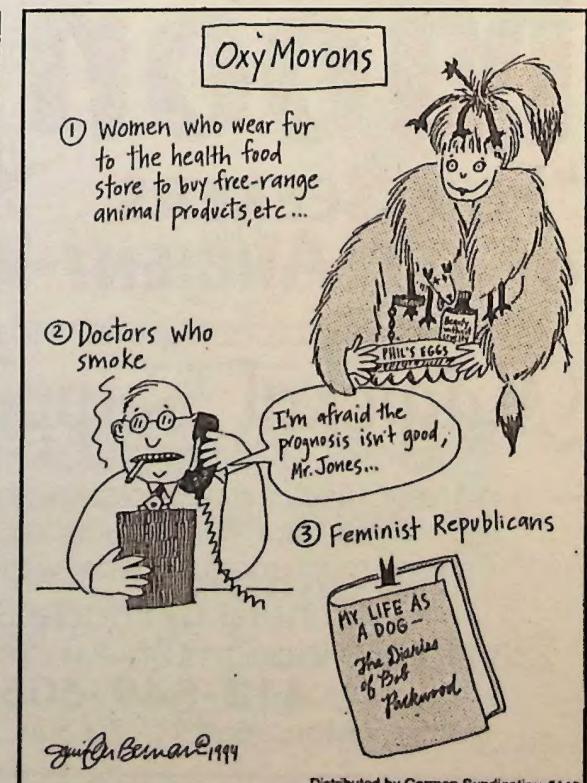
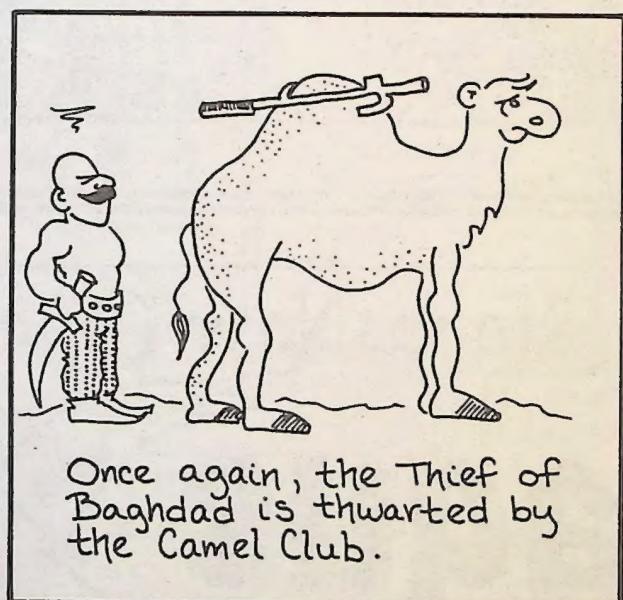
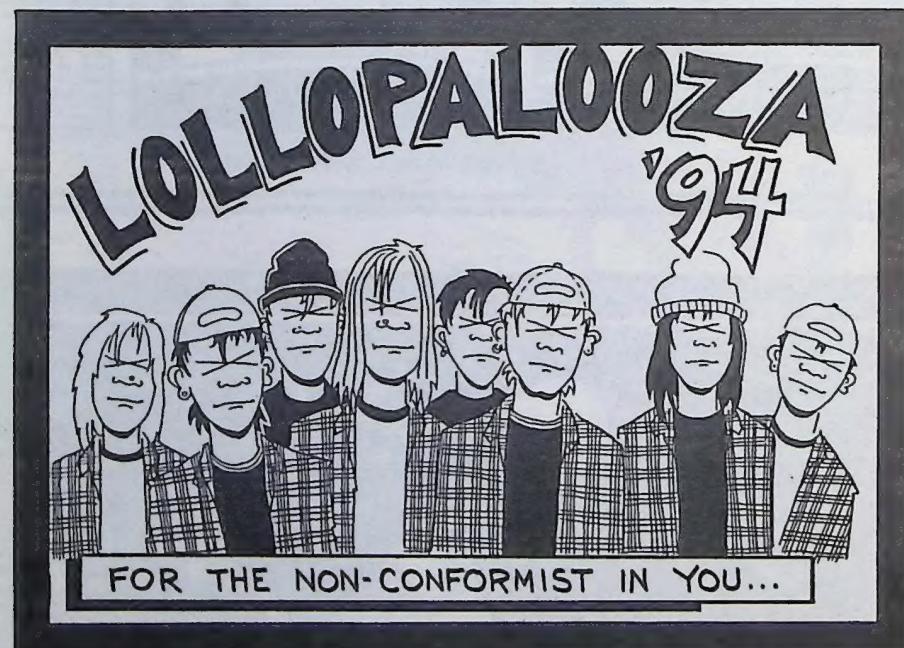
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TERMINATOR I, II
CITYLIGHTS BY ALMODOVAR
MEN
SHIRLEY VALENTINE
ALICE
THELMA AND LOUISE
THE MALTESE FALCON

BEYOND POLITIX



BOB WAS AN ALCOHOLIC, ED A DANGER FREAK, WARREN WAS INTO SEX WHERE THEY MIGHT BE INTERRUPTED BY A STRANGER, DAN FELT COMPELLED TO WORK ALL THE TIME, AND NED ALWAYS OVERATE. BETSY DECIDED IT WAS TIME TO STOP DATING PSYCHOTHERAPISTS.



WEATHER OR NOT

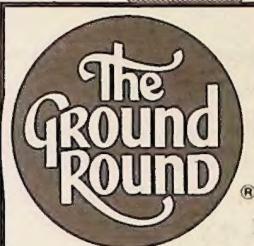


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JOE BOB BRIGGS

Has anyone noticed how letters-to-the-editor seem to be getting *longer* and *longer* and *angrier* and *angrier* and *whinier* and *whinier*?

I've definitely noticed it. First of all, if you're *that* mad about something, *why would you write to a newspaper about it?*

I mean, I understand that that's the purpose of a letters column — so people can air all their complaints in a relatively safe place — but let's face it, it's not like anybody is gonna remember it tomorrow. And if the letter is about a real grievance — like why doesn't the police department stop the teenagers from making so much noise on Friday nights — then *why don't you write to the police department?* Then you at least have *some chance* (a slim one, I realize, but a chance) of getting an answer to your complaint.

But anyhow, that's not my point. My point is that these days people are getting angry about things that don't even matter. You'll see letters to the editor that start out:

"Dear Beacon-Journal: Your intrepid reporter might be interested to know that the landing on Normandy Beach did *not* occur at 7:30 a.m., as he reported, but was delayed by fog until well after ten o'clock...."

And then this letter will go on for *twenty-five paragraphs* telling you everything you never wanted to know about our fighting men in World War II. And then it'll probly end up with something *nasty*, like, "If you would spend as much time *checking your facts* as you do trying to peddle your overpriced advertising space, then maybe we would have a *real* newspaper in this town."

For some reason, when people catch a newspaper screwing up in any way, they become the Butcher of Bucharest in their letters.

I've written things for newspapers that had real mistakes in them — *serious* fact errors that made me go around cussing the whole day. But those things usually just attract one letter or one phone call — from the person most directly affected. Like, if you say someone was convicted on four counts and acquitted on three, when in fact it was the other way around, you can guarantee some lawyer is gonna be screaming in your ear that afternoon.

But the *public* only gets angry when you do something like get the winner of the 1948 World Series wrong, or misspell the name of a heavy-metal band, or confuse Susan Sarandon with Geena Davis. (All right, Mr. Smarty Pants, which one is Thelma, and which is Louise? You see how easy it is?)

And then you get these Letters From Hell:

"I should have know that someone with *your* taste could never bother to figure out the proper date for...."

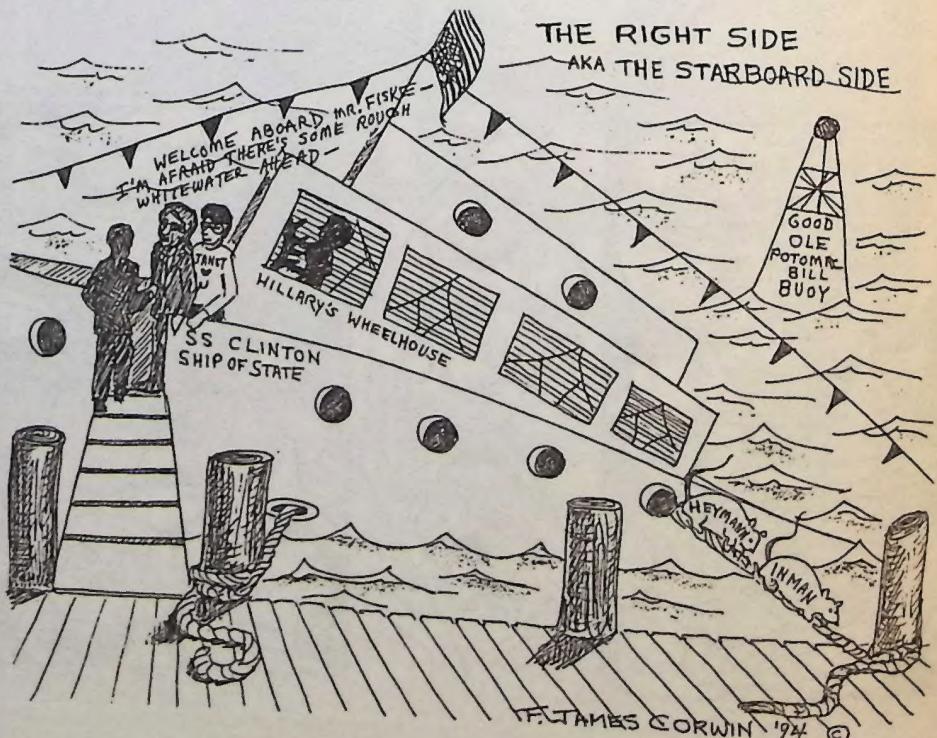
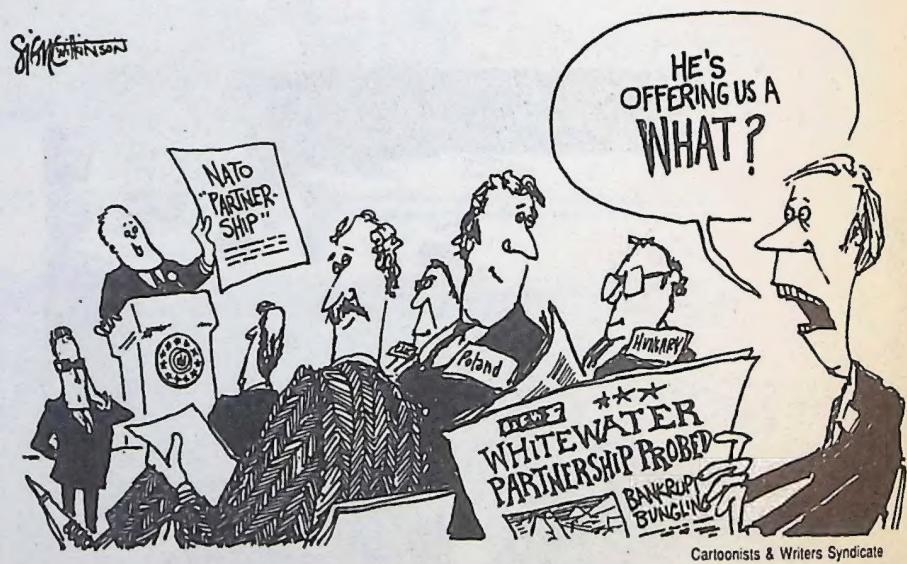
"You've confirmed all my worst suspicions about how negligent your research is...."

"I've never expected accuracy from someone who writes in such a shallow and pompous style, but I still expect you to occasionally bother to find out what the truth is. I refer to...."

It's like getting letters from the sixth-grade teacher you *hated* — the one who only enjoyed herself when you *screwed up*.

Listen, people, lighten up. *We don't do it on purpose, okay?*
Sheesh.

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THU TEN

FRI ELEVEN

SAT TWELVE

SUN THIRTEEN

MON FOURTEEN

TUE FIFTEEN

WED SIXTEEN

Vertex: Selectrocution Iron Horse: Beausoleil Smith College Theatre: Dupe, by Roy Faudree Hadley Pub: new country music w/ DJ Mike Perkins Seven O's: karaoke night Pearl Street: hip-hop dance music by Spin, Inc. Bay State Hotel: Bottle Rockets, L-Dopa, Cheri Knight Mike's Billiards: yeP

Pearl Street: Texas Flood, plus top 40 dance music w/ DJ Bob Bay State Hotel: The Vestrymen, The Barnies Charlemont Inn: Montenia Harvest Valley: Jac Veronesi Green River Cafe: Carrie & Michael Nobel-Kline Vertex: Hip Hop Party Peking Garden/Humor Works: showcase & open mic Common Ground (Bratt.): Fortunate Sun Seven O's: Showdown Hadley Pub: Big Time Band w/ Jimmy Johnson Iron Horse: Avery Sharpe Smith College Theatre: Dupe, by Roy Faudree Northampton Center for the Arts: Oriki Artist Collective Dance & Drum Concert

Vertex: Selectrocution Smith College Theatre: Dupe, by Roy Faudree Seven O's: Showdown Hadley Pub: Florida Evans Band Harvest Valley: Jac Veronesi Iron Horse: Susan Werner Pearl Street: John Cafferty & The Beaver Brown Band, plus Club HMP, w/ Spin, Inc. (Special Valentine's party) The Tea House (formerly Basha's): jazz trombonist Brian Bender & Trio Bay State Hotel: Rock Gods from Chicopee, Falafel Boy, Raymond & The Circle Green River Cafe: Louise Taylor

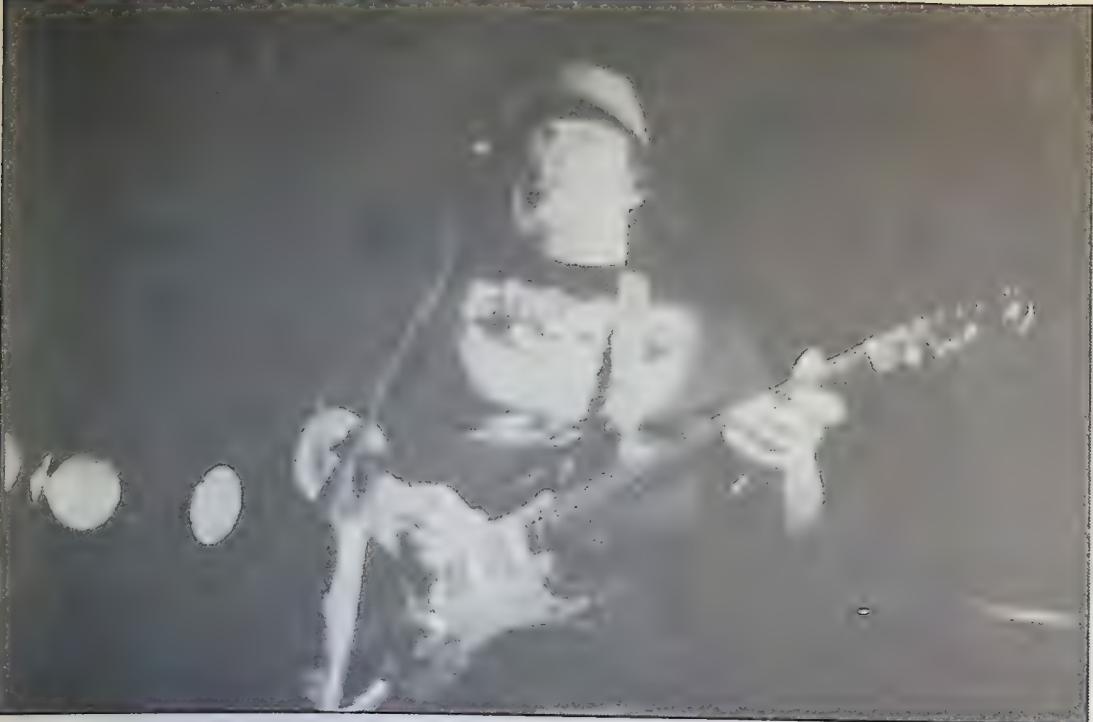
Iron Horse: Buckwheat Zydeco Green River Cafe: Willie Sordillo & Dan Stevens Northampton Brewery: Minibus, Monghani Seven O's: open mic Pearl Street: Teen Dance Party Vertex: Only Living Witness Northampton Center for the Arts: Enchanted Circle Theatre — Creation Myths from Africa (2pm)

Bay State Hotel: Blue Monday, w/ Ed Vadas & The Fabulous Heavyweights Vertex: Gay Nite w/ DJ Steve Iron Horse: Margie Adam Green River Cafe: Women's Sweetheart Dance, w/ DJ Devlyn

Northampton Brewery: open mic, w/ Mark Herschler Green River Cafe: Amante Chamber Music Ensemble Iron Horse: Poco Hadley Pub: Stuart's open mic Northampton Center for the Arts: Readers & Writers, Live — Yvonne Daniels, William Strickland, Ingrid Askew, Djata Bumpus, David M. Jackson

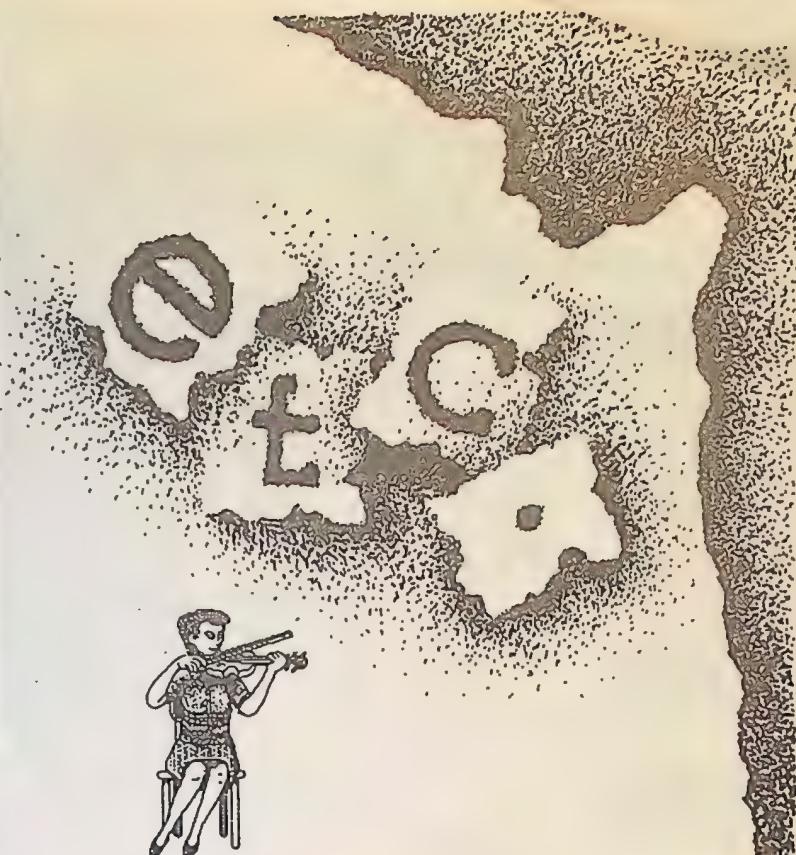
Hadley Pub: Reggae night Pearl Street: US3, plus Gay Night — dancing to music by Spin, Inc. Bay State Hotel: Frank Zappa Memorial — Local Musicians Shut Up & Play Their Guitars Seven O's: Jud & Snowman Northampton Brewery: The North Side Sax Quartet





Vast Ed Vadas at Pearl Street

Tobey photo



**THU
SEVENTEEN**
Seven O's: karaoke night **Bay State Hotel**: Borderland **Iron Horse**: Four Men and a Dog **Hadley Pub**: new country music w/ DJ Mike Perkins **Pearl Street**: 18+ hip-hop dancing to music by Spin, Inc. **Vertex**: Selectrocution

**FRI
EIGHTEEN**
Green River Cafe: Richard Shindell **Charlemont Inn**: Riverfront Jump **Bay State Hotel**: Rent Party, The Gravel Pit, The Maggies **Pearl Street**: Shockra, Michelle Malone **Seven O's**: Flipside **Iron Horse**: Johnny Copeland **Common Ground (Bratt.)**: Moonboot, Lover **Hadley Pub**: Big Time Band w/ Jimmy Johnson **Vertex**: Mardi Gras Party **Peking Garden/Humor Works**: showcase & open mic **Harvest Valley Restaurant**: The Kirby Farrell Quartet

**SAT
NINETEEN**
Hadley Pub: Florida Evans Band **Bay State Hotel**: Monghani, Xanax 25, Lesley Smith **Green River Cafe**: Ruthie Dornfeld & friends **Harvest Valley Restaurant**: Kirby Farrell Quartet **Seven O's**: Flipside **Northampton Center for the Arts**: PVFS African Rhythms in the Caribbean, w/ Joe Platz & Freddy Moreno (2 pm); Pan-African dance music w/ Kari Njiiri & Norman Hiza (9 pm) **Charlemont Inn**: John Sheldon & Blue Streak **The Tea House** (formerly Basha's): jazz trombonist Brian Bender & Trio **Iron Horse**: Brooks Williams, Harrod & Funck

**SUN
TWENTY**
Northampton Brewery: Free Press, Soup **Seven O's**: open mic **Pearl Street**: Teen Dance Party **Vertex**: The Organization (formerly Death Angel), Muzza Chunka, Strip Mind **Green River Cafe**: Vernon David & Jill Turner **Iron Horse**: Garnet Rogers, Lui Collins

**MON
TWENTYONE**
Iron Horse: Suede **Vertex**: Gay Nite, w/ DJ Steve **Bay State Hotel**: Blue Monday, w/ Ed Vadas & The Fabulous Heavyweights

**TUE
TWENTYTWO**
Northampton Brewery: open mic, w/ Mark Herschler **Vertex**: Brutal Truth **Hadley Pub**: Stuart's open mic **Bay State Hotel**: Bay State Jazz — Tom McClung Trio **Pearl Street**: Tree, Shootyz Grove **Green River Cafe**: open mic, w/ Rob Skelton

**WED
TWENTYTHREE**
Pearl Street: Gay Night w/ music by Spin, Inc. **Northampton Brewery**: Klezmir Trio **Seven O's**: Jud & Snowman **Hadley Pub**: Reggae night



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Droughts

 Half a million people in the northwestern Chinese province of Shaanxi are without adequate drinking water due to a severe drought that also is ravaging the country's winter wheat crop. Since last autumn, rainfall has dropped by as much as 60 percent from the previous year. Half of the province's wheat crop has withered, and local meteorologists predict the dry spell is likely to continue for several more months.

Saudi Arabia's King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz called for rain prayers to be offered throughout the kingdom following the failure of this winter's rains to appear. Similar prayers were offered in the United Arab Emirates last month.

Earthquakes

 A pair of very strong earthquakes struck the regency of North Maluku in eastern Indonesia, killing at least seven people and destroying scores of houses and other buildings. One quake damaged roads and an airport in the Halmahera Islands, and generated a tsunami that washed about a half-mile inland.

Further aftershocks of the disastrous Southern California tremor rumbled across the Los Angeles basin and adjacent valleys. Earth movements also were felt in southwestern Iran, northern Peru, Armenia, Taiwan, Sumatra, and the Tokyo metropolitan area.

Wildfires

 Twenty-one firefighters perished after they were trapped by a brushfire in the pampas of southern Argentina. The teenagers were still in training when they became trapped in burning high grass by rapidly shifting winds. The blazes have charred nearly a million acres of land and killed about 1,000 head of cattle.



By Steve Newman

For the week ending
January 28, 1994

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years." Small birds are particularly vulnerable to lung disease.

Starving Swans

 Swans brought to the brink of starvation by a European Union edict are stopping cars and "mugging" pedestrians for food in Berwick-upon-Tweed, England. For nearly 50 years, about 200 swans have wintered in the small town, feeding happily on effluent from the maltings at a local brewery. Their daily fare of grain and husks stopped abruptly when the river authority enforced European pollution regulations and halted the flow of untreated waste. "They leave the water and come knocking at our doors with their powerful beaks," said one resident, adding that the swans roam the streets and obstruct traffic. Bird-lovers hope alternative natural food sources can be found before hundreds of additional swans arrive during the six-week molting season next summer.

Thermal Theory

 An Australian scientist has concluded that the weather actually changes in sync with our work week. A.H. Gordon of the Flinders Institute of Atmospheric and Marine Sciences in Adelaide says that 14 years of observations show that human activity, including commuting, make the air in the lower atmosphere warmer during the week. Writing in the journal *Nature*, Gordon said that it was hottest during the week, especially on Wednesdays, and cooler on weekends.

Pesticide Deaths

 The Chinese Ministry of Agriculture announced it will crack down on unlicensed pesticide production after more than 10,000 people died from chemical poisoning last year. Rural factories often mix chemicals and sell them as brand-name insecticides or fertilizer to unsuspecting farmers. "Those chemicals have seriously infected agricultural production, reducing crop output and contaminating farm production and the environment," the *China Daily* reported.

Passive Smoke

 A British woman's pet budgerigar died of lung cancer caused by passive smoking, according to local veterinarians. The bird, named Peter, coughed his last just days after a vet said he was suffering from the disease. Owner Eileen Wilson, 81, said, "I loved Peter, but I'm not going to give up smoking after all these

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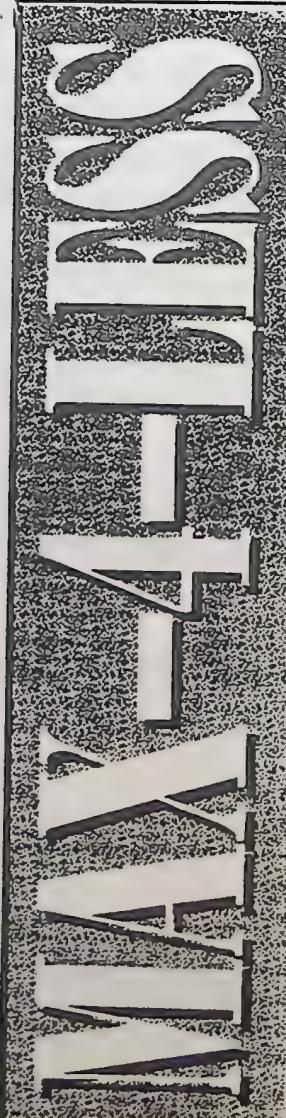
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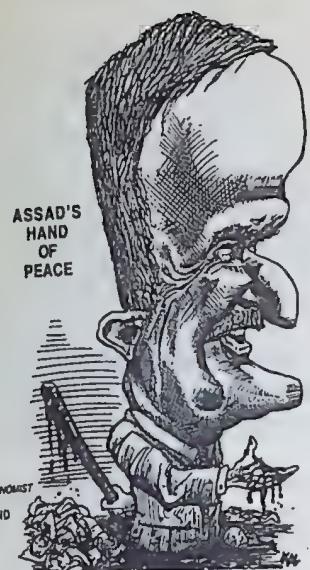
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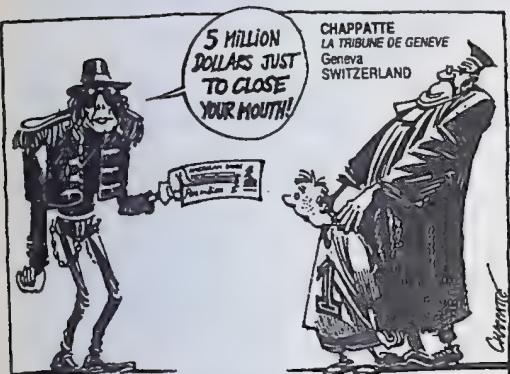
IEWS OF THE WORLD



SHEIN
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Moscow
RUSSIA



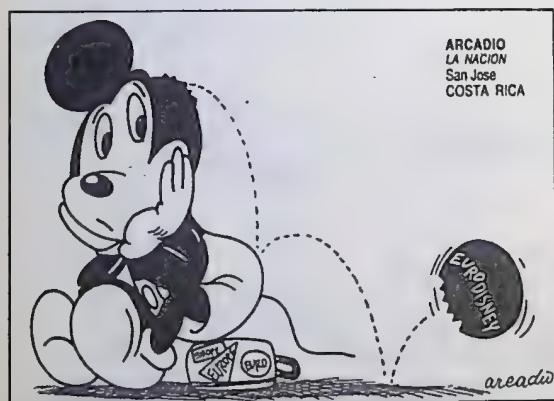
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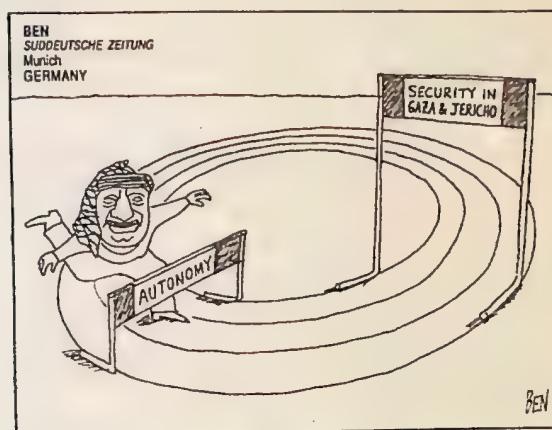
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TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT

by L.M. Boyd

Flypaper was first marketed in 1861, by Roxide International, Inc., world's largest manufacturer of fly swatters. It was meant to appease people too squeamish to squash flies.

Q. What's the technical difference between oil and fat?

A. If it stays liquid above 68 degrees F., it's oil. If it stays solid above that temperature, it's fat.

Women over age 85 now outnumber men in that bracket by 100 to 42.

Beer was pretty important in ancient Egypt. Ramses II annually offered 30,000 gallons of beer as a sacrifice to the gods — a sizable government contract for its time. And like other government contracts, nobody knows what really happened to that beer.

Half of the US farm owners don't live on their farms.

Ambrose Bierce said, "Speak when you are angry and you will make the best speech you will ever regret."

In a typical Japanese household, there are seven times as many clocks as in the typical American home.

Q. Can a man and woman who are best friends ruin their friendship by getting married?

A. Our researcher says: Sometimes. If the marriage lasts, though, the norm is that best friends become better friends.

On each episode of "Wheel of Fortune," Vanna White claps her hands an average of 720 times.

Maurice Sendak said, "There must be more to life than having everything."

Nutritionists say if you were snow-bound in a mountain pass, you could survive for a short time on the protein and nutrients in your leather shoes.

The half-moon at the base of your fingernail is made by an air pocket.

Fabric designers give cloth a "warm" look by adding a few red threads to the weave, or a "cool" look with a few blue threads.

Q. To what country do we export the most American-made cigarettes?

A. Japan.

"All you need in life," said Mark Twain, "is ignorance and confidence, and then success is sure."

Several kitchen mechanics advise that to sweeten tomato sauce you should toss in some grated carrots, instead of sugar.

An alligator can go for a year without eating.

New England is about 133 per cent the size of old England.

Q. How old is the automobile air bag?

A. It goes back to 1952, when John Hetrick of Pennsylvania invented a "safety cushion." Car makers told him nobody'd be interested. His patent ran out in 1970, so he made no money from it.

The writer William Dean Howells noted, "Some people can stay longer in an hour than others can in a week."

When you crack a whip, the "crack" happens because the whip's tip exceeds the speed of sound — over 700 mph.

Doctors now claim that breast-fed babies grow up with straighter teeth.

At last count, Washington lobbyists outnumbered U.S. Senators by 74 to 1.

The comedian Norm Crosby noted, "When you get into court, you are putting your fate into the hands of 12 people who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty."

Q. Why is cottage cheese called that?

A. Because it was made at home, and was an early cottage industry.

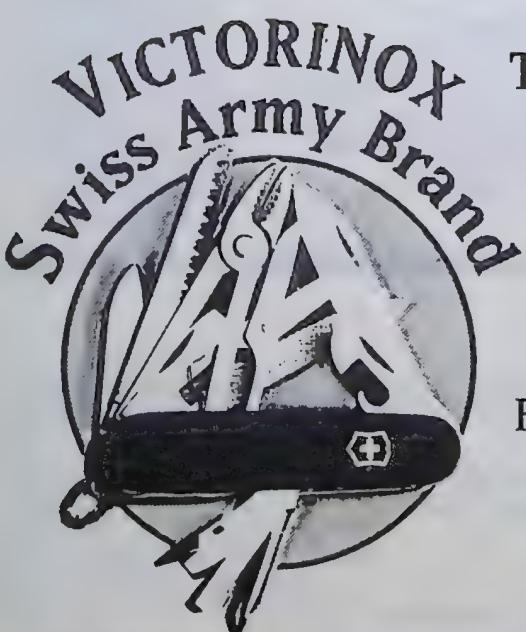
The squid is the animal that most varies in size.

Gerontologists inform us that almost nobody over the age of 100 years dies of disease.

A client wonders, "Will monkeys chew gum?" Researchers claim they will for a while. Then they'll take it out and stick it into their hair.

The wit Dorothy Parker told everyone that she intended to leave 10 per cent of her ashes to her agent.

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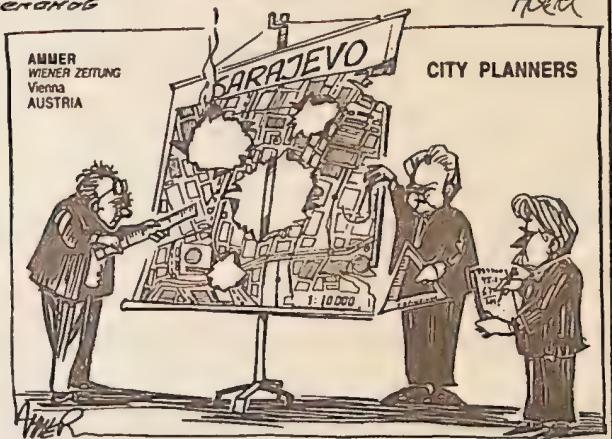
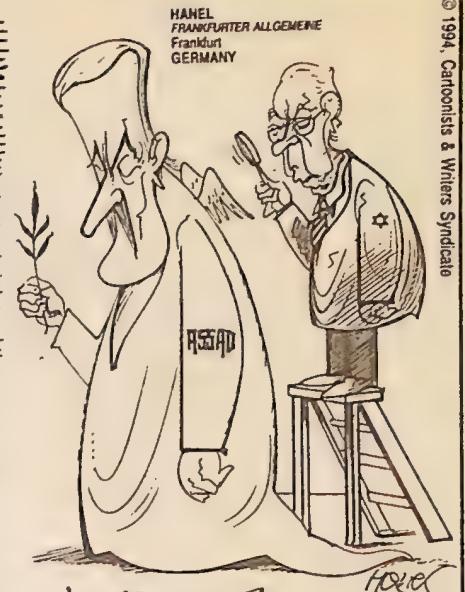


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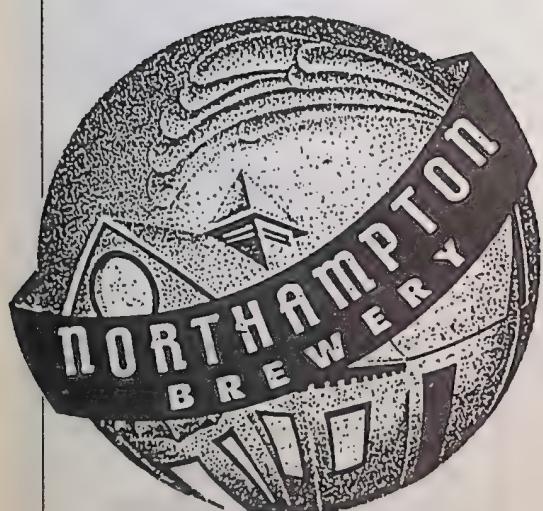
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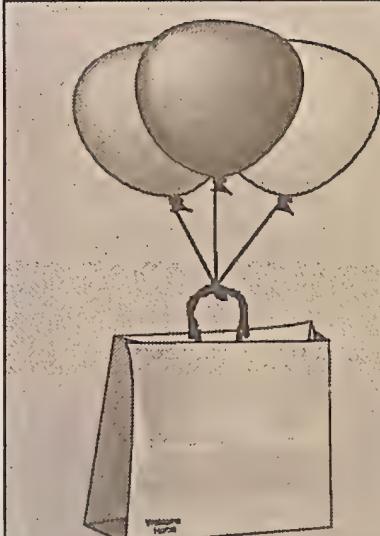
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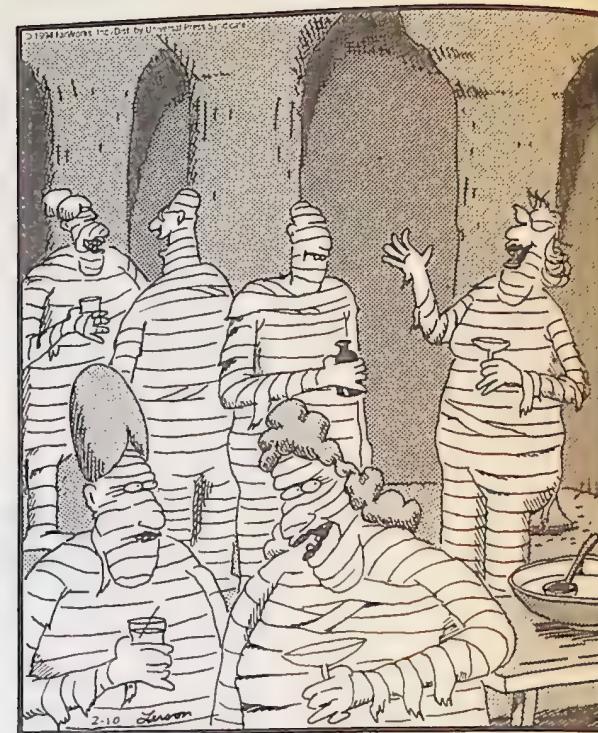
By GARY LARSON



"Well, I'd recommend either the chicken-fried steak or maybe the seafood platter. But look — I gotta be honest with ya — nothin' we serve is exactly what I'd call food for the gods."



The rooster stared back at me, his power and confidence almost overwhelming. Down below, male paused warily at the coop's entrance. I kept the camera running. They were beautiful, these "Chickens in the Mist."



"Well, as usual, there goes Princess Luwana — always the center of attention. ... You know, underneath that outer wrap, she's held together with duct tape."

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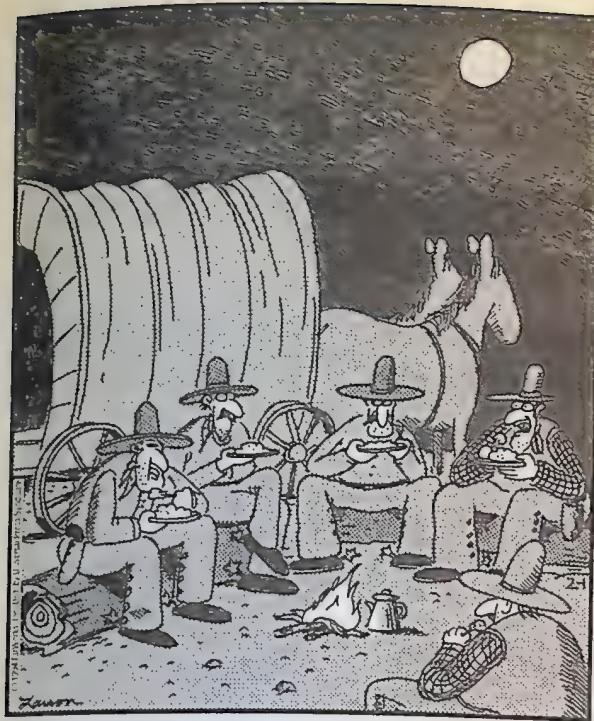
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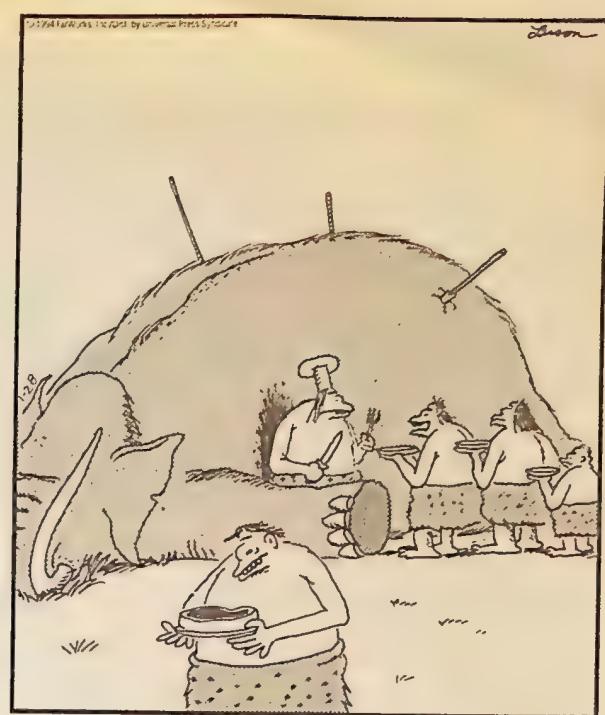




"Frank. ... Don't do that."



Leonard felt his skin suddenly crawl. Coming through the door were a couple of real sketchy characters.



"Uh, let's see ... I'll try the mammoth."



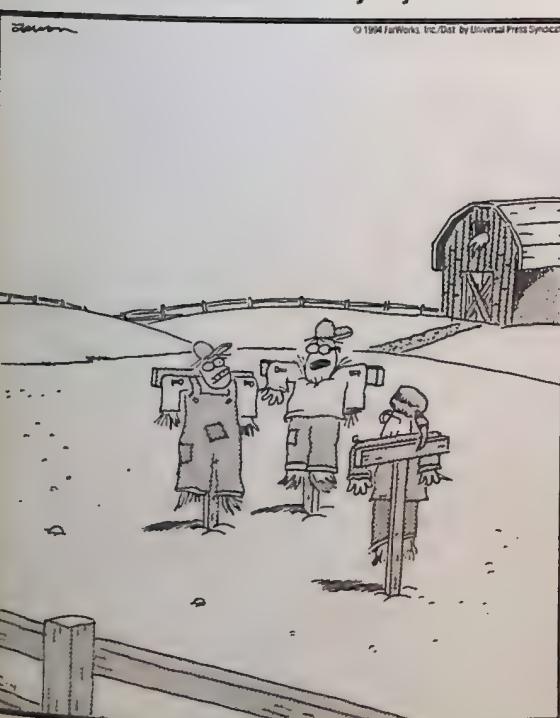
The party had been going splendidly — and then Tantor saw the ivory keyboard.



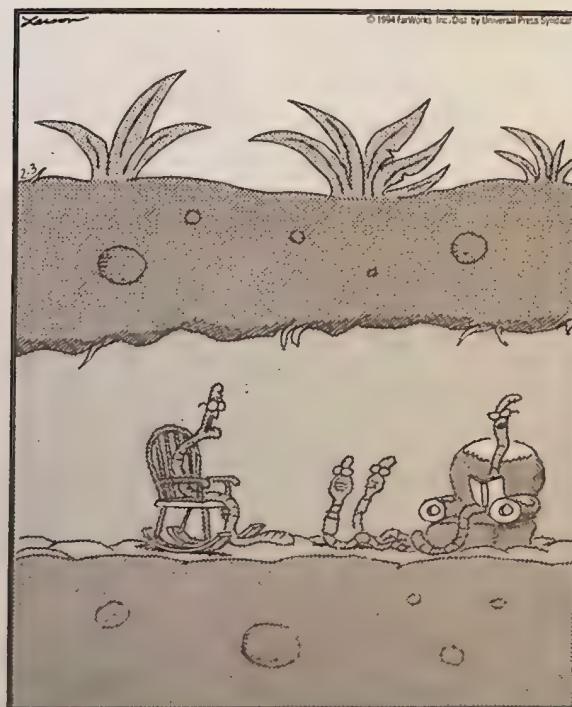
"Convertible! Convertible!"



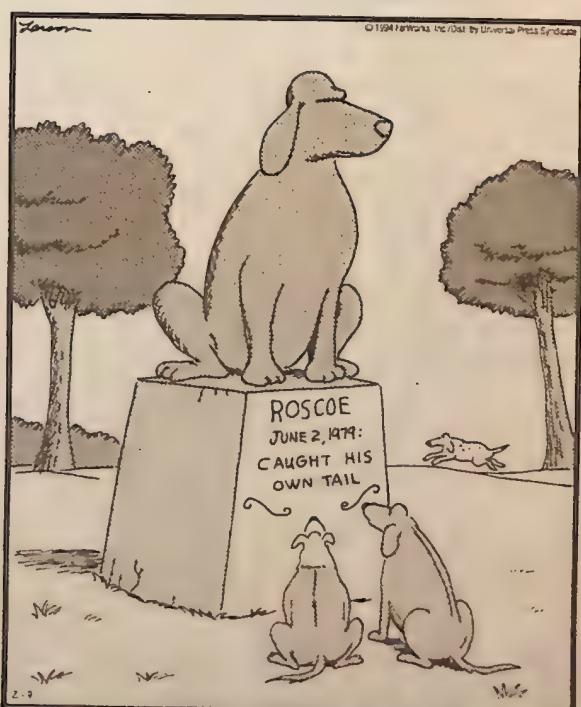
In medieval times, a suit of armor often served as a family's message center.



"Come on, Johnny — don't be chicken. ... After it's over, we'll all be strawbrothers."



"You little softies! When I was your age, I had to crawl 14 inches to the surface and back! Every day! ... Through hardpan, by thunder!"



Leold
by Roger&Salem Salloom

I heard that the Walt Disney Corporation is suing the Serbian government for using a picture of Mickey Mouse on one of their recruitment posters.

I also heard that a small Christian group in Northampton, Massachusetts is suing the Serbian government for using a photo of Jesus Christ on a different recruitment poster.

Where'd they get the photo?

I'll bet Disney wins big. They have tough attorneys.

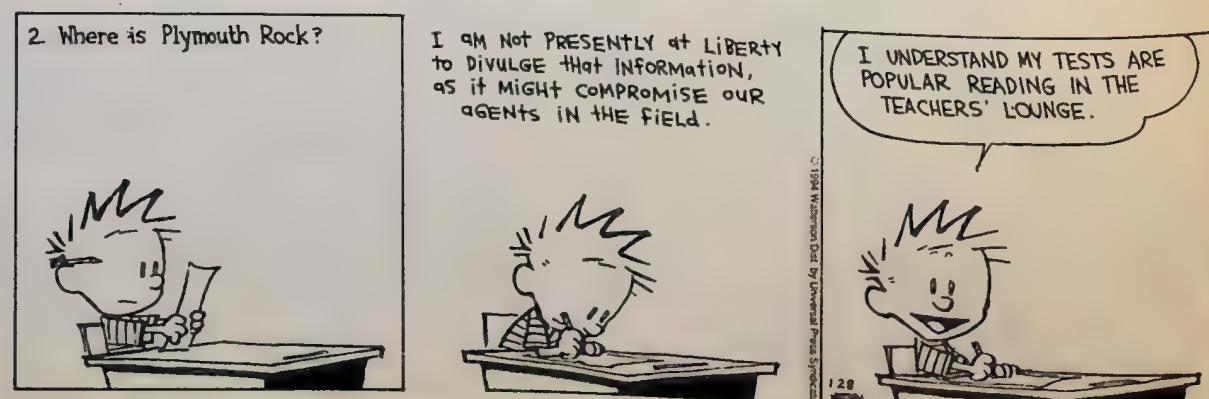
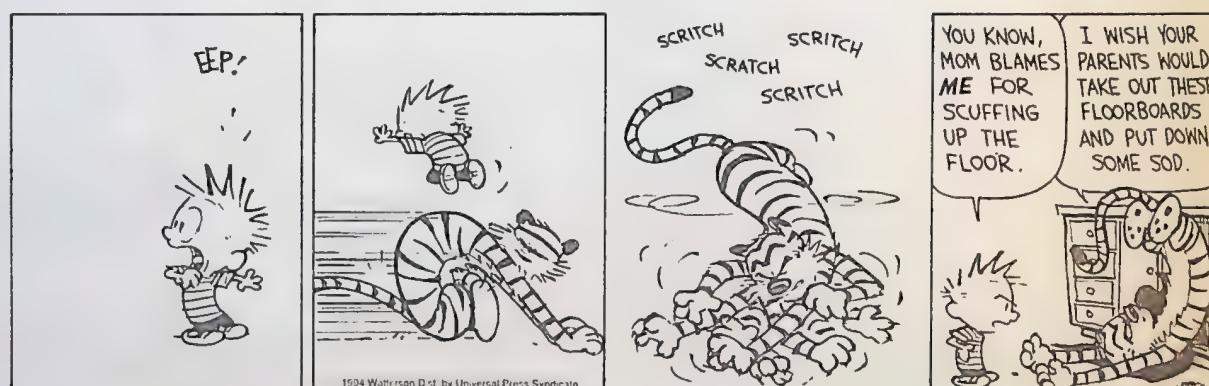
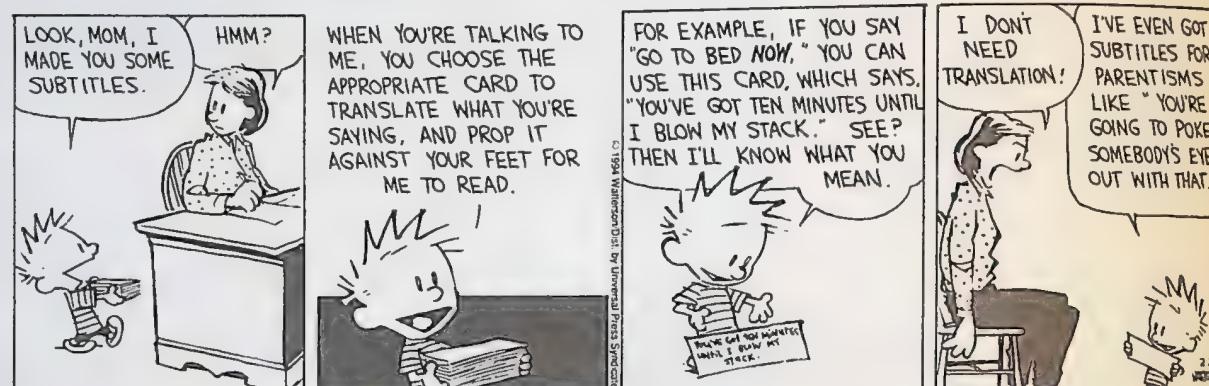
I don't think the Christians have a chance to win.

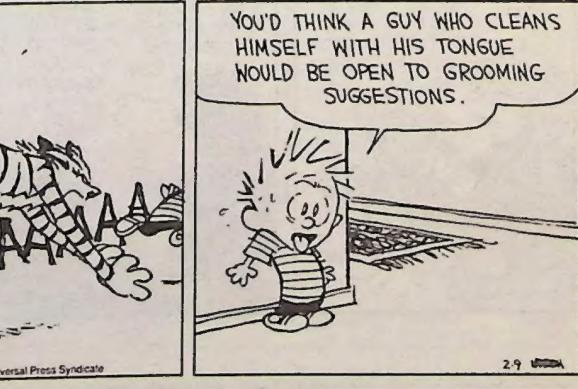
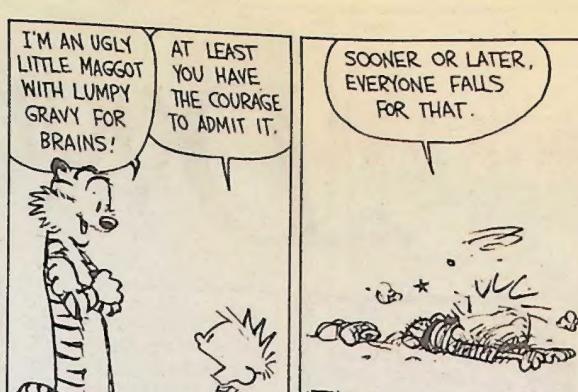
There's no precedent.



Calvin and Hobbes

by BILL WATTERSON





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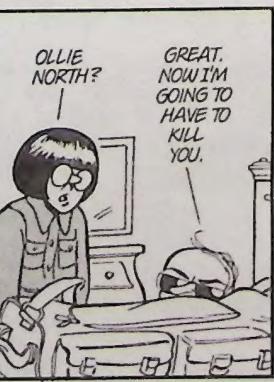
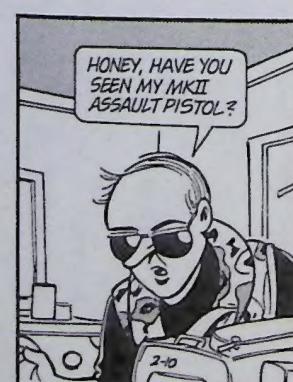
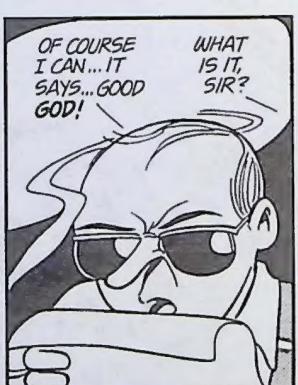
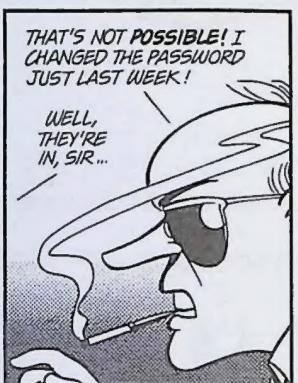
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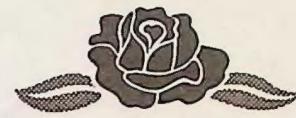
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BY G.B. TRUDEAU





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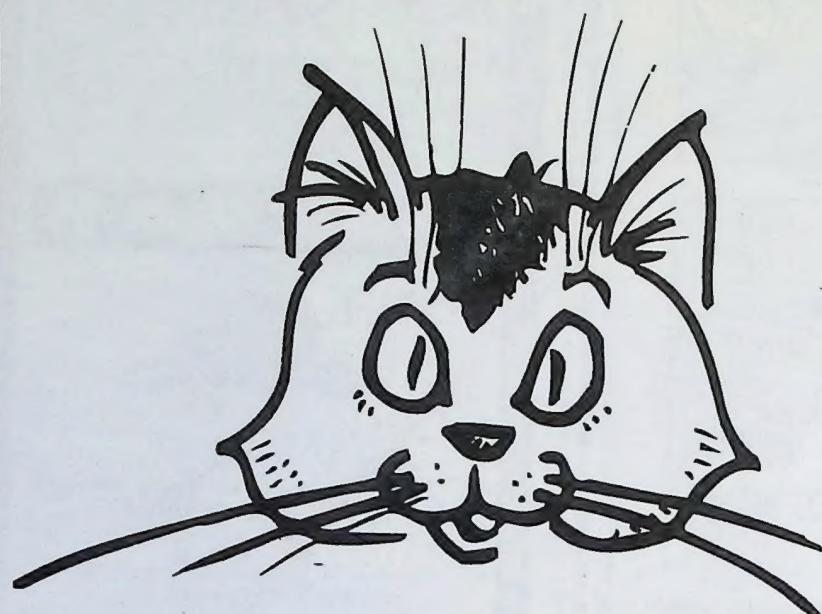
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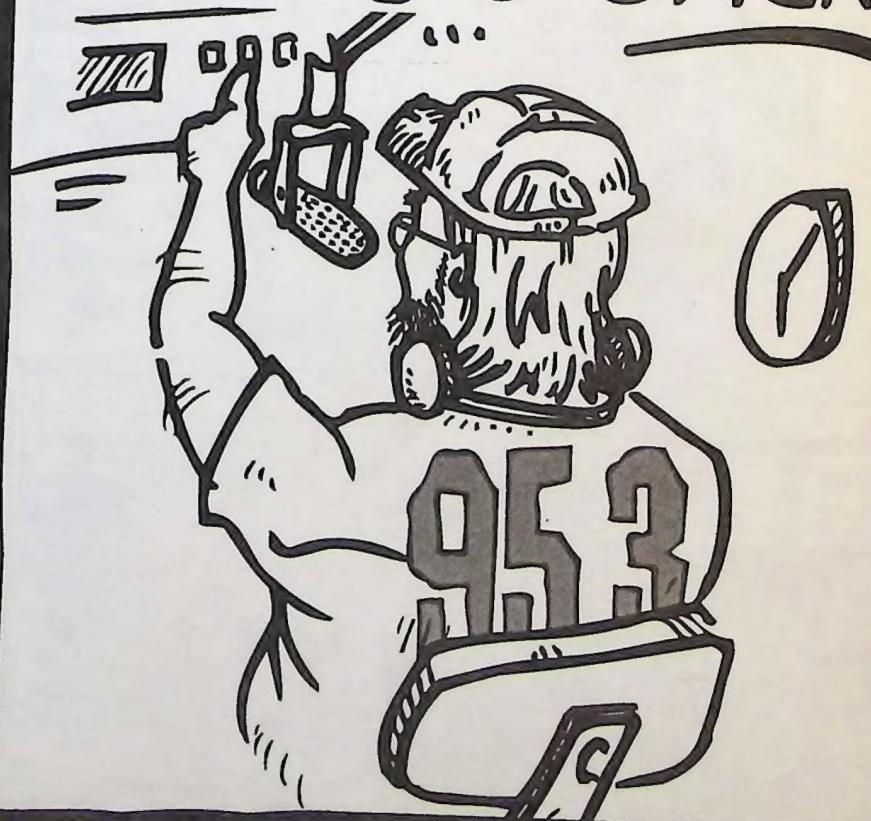


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